

Conservation Counts

February 2014

Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Department Newsletter



GOT MANURE?

GET YOUR MANURE SPREADER WEIGHED

The Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Department has scales available for use by County livestock producers to weigh manure spreaders.

Manure provides valuable nutrients for plant growth. With the rising cost of commercial fertilizers, proper crediting of your manure can save you money.

The weight of your manure can differ from “factory listed values” depending on the consistency and type of bedding used. Don’t under or over apply! Call today to schedule an appointment with Conservation Staff to have your spreader weighted and calibrated.

It’s simple, it’s fast and best of all, it’s free. Call Joe or Nancy today at (920) 674-7110. All you need is a spreader full of manure and a field to spread on!

UNUSED MANURE STORAGE ON THE FARM?

State law requires all unused manure storage facilities be abandoned properly. These facilities can be a threat to ground water in addition to a safety hazard to people and livestock.

If you have unused manure storage, contact the Department today. Cost-sharing may be available to defray costs.

All manure storage abandonments must be done following NRCS standards and require a no-cost County permit.

ATTENTION LANDOWNERS WITH PROPERTY NEAR CITIES OR VILLAGES

The Jefferson County Farmland Preservation Land Use Plan was updated and approved by the County Board in February of 2012. Contained in the plan were changes in the zoning of some A-1 (Exclusive Ag Zoning) to A-T (Ag Transition Zoning). Landowners affected by this change were notified of this by the Jefferson County Zoning Department by mail.

This change affects a very small amount of land, Countywide. Only land located near cities, towns or villages is affected. However, if your land is affected, it is important to note that A-T land was NOT ELIGIBLE for the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Tax Credit beginning in 2012.

To check the zoning of your land go to www.jeffersoncountywi.gov, click on LAND RECORDS ONLINE on the right hand side of the page, then to the GIS Interactive map feature.

If you have questions on your tax return please talk to your tax consultant as the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department does not give advice on taxes.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Nutrient Management plans are required every year for Farmland Preservation. If your plan has not yet been updated, now is the time to contact your crop consultant! Annual Certifications will not be accepted without your plan checklist.

Jefferson County LWCD ~ (920) 674-7110

Courthouse ~ 311 S Center Ave, Jefferson, WI 53549 ~ <http://www.jeffersoncountywi.gov>

Conservation Counts Continued

ANNUAL TREE & SHRUB SALE

Our department is currently taking orders for trees and shrubs. The cost is \$30 for a bundle of 25 of any one variety. Varieties include White Pine, White Birch, Colorado Blue, Norway and White Spruce, Fraser Fir, Red Oak, Hazelnut and Serviceberry. Please visit our website, www.jeffersoncountywi.gov for additional information or call (920) 674-7110.

Type of Tree	# of Bundles	Subtotal

Subtotal: _____

5.5% Tax: _____

Total: _____

Name

Address

Phone Number

Make checks payable to Jefferson County LWCD

Mail To: Jefferson County LWCD

311 S Center Ave, Room 113

Jefferson, WI 53549-1701

Trees come in bundles of 25. Payment is due at the time of order. Include this form with payment. All sales are final. No refunds will be given. We are not responsible for viability of trees.

FARMLAND EASEMENT PROGRAM MOVES FORWARD

The Jefferson County Farmland Conservation Easement Commission purchased a permanent easement on the Dale Neupert farm in the Town of Waterloo in December. The 190 acre farm is in a rotation of corn and soybeans and employs multiple conservation practices to protect top soil and water quality.

The easement was funded by the USDA's Farmland and Ranchland Protection Program, Jefferson County, and a partial donation of the easement's value by Mr. Neupert.

Mr. Neupert said "Due to the lay of the land, some of it being prime agriculture and some wooded area, I always felt it should stay this way and not split up for development. I would advise any farmer or landowner who is interested in keeping their land in agriculture for the future to participate in the PACE program. Donating an easement to the program will allow the program to continue and give great returns in the future."

To date the easement program has protected 415 acres on two farms through the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements program (PACE) and 218 acres on three farms through voluntarily donated easements. Donated easement may qualify land owners for substantial income tax deductions.

The Jefferson County Easement Commission is accepting applications for voluntary conservation easements. For more information and application forms, please contact Michelle Staff at the Jefferson County Zoning and Planning Department, (920) 674-8638.



Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Chairperson Margaret Burlingham & Landowner Dale Neupert